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 Approved For Release 2005/08/12 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700020051-3
 MESSAGE FORM
 S E C R E T
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DCI/SAVA
 15 Sept 71
 BLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION
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S E C R E T 15 SEP 71 22 152 CITE DIRECT

PRIORITY SAIGON

[Redacted]

1. [Redacted] HAS ASKED US FOR A QUICK ASSESSMENT (DUE 16 SEPTEMBER) ON COMMUNIST CAPABILITIES FOR USING RIOT CONTROL AGENTS. REQUEST SPECIFICALLY ASKS WHETHER COMMUNISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE USING THESE AGENTS AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT AND WHAT TYPES.

2. SO FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, ALL PROVABLE VC AND NVA CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS IN SVN HAVE USED CAPTURED U.S. MATERIAL OR LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GRENADES (BOTH HAND AND RIFLE) AND MORTAR ROUNDS. SINCE NORTH VIETNAM IS NOT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING CS, CN OR DM (ADAMSITE) WE PRESUME WHERE VC USE LOCALLY PRODUCED CHEMICAL WARFARE MUNITIONS, FILLER THEREIN COMES FROM CAPTURED ARVN OR U.S. STORES.

3. THE ONE EXCEPTION REFLECTED IN OUR RECORDS OCCURRED ON 4 MAY 1969 WHEN A 15-MAN U.S. MARINE AMBUSH PATROL WAS INCAPACITATED BY AN UNKNOWN CHEMICAL AGENT. THE FIVE MOST

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SERIOUS CASES WERE HOSPITALIZED AND TESTS SHOWED THEM TO HAVE EXTREMELY LOW CHOLINESTERASE LEVELS, WHICH COULD INDICATE THAT SOME NERVE AGENT HAD BEEN USED.

4. CAPTURED NVA OR VC DOCUMENTS HAVE FROM TIME TO TIME REFERRED TO OTHER CHEMICAL INCAPACITENTS BUT WE HAVE NO RECORD OF THEIR USE.

5. COULD YOU PLEASE MAKE QUICK CHECK TO ASCERTAIN IF ABOVE SQUARES WITH YOUR INFORMATION. PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL OR CONFLICTING DATA. *CPJ*

END OF MESSAGE

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George A. Carver, Jr.

SAVA

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S E C R E T

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